

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 4-12, rejected claim 1, and objected to claims 2-3. However, the Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner did not acknowledge claims 13-14 (claim 13 having been rejected, and claim 14 having been allowed, in the previous Office Action of April 10, 2007). By this Amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 has been amended, and new claim 15 has been added. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saito (JP 2001-143512).

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and recites subject matter from cancelled claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Saito, and further respectfully requests the withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner allowed claims 4-12.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 2-3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. However, the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Further, as claim 3 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is also in condition for allowance.

Claims 13-14 Not Addressed By Examiner

As noted previously in this Amendment, the Examiner did not address claims 13-14 in the present Office Action.

Claim 13 depends from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is also in condition for allowance. Also, claim 14 depends from claim 4, which is in condition for allowance, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is also in condition for allowance. Further, the Examiner already allowed claim 14 in the previous Office Action or April 10, 2007.

New Claim 15

New claim 15 recites the features of claim 3 along with the features recited in original claim 1. The Examiner indicated in the item 4 on page 3 of the Office Action that these features would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of these features. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 has been amended, and new claim 15 has been added. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in the application

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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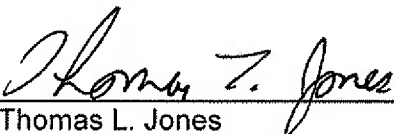
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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